



CITY COUNCIL

Public Works Committee

Monday, November 17, 2008
Meeting Report

Attendance: M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, Chair, S. Fuhs, D. Sterner

Others Attending: L. Kelleher, C. Younger V. Spencer, D. Cituk, C. Jones

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz, Chair

I. Orange and Cherry Street Lot Update

Mr. Jones reported that the project is ready to go out to bid. Project construction is set to begin in early spring 2009.

Mr. Spencer reported that the Zoning Hearing Board approved the company in residential development at the old Wynn Outlet building. Mr. Jones reported that the developer is covering the cost of the installation of parking spaces.

II. East Ends Contract

Mr. Spencer stated that he visited the East Ends Park and had a conversation with some members concerning the need to update the expired contract. MR, Younger followed up on that conversation with a letter referring with the need to renegotiate the loose terms on October 27th. Mr. Younger stated that he will issue a second letter sent certified mail notifying them that lack of response will cause eviction. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested setting a deadline for the renegotiation.

III. Recreation (CDBG Budget)

Mr. Jones noted that the NEAR Center is operating at Pendora Park Fieldhouse. There was discussion if this was a NEAR center or an after school program. In any case, the program is running and will receive \$15,000 in CDBG money.

There is no update on the Olivet Southeast. Mr. Hottenstein will have this information at the next meeting.

IV. Line of Credit WWTP Project

Ms. Kelleher reminded the Committee that this information was requested by Mr. Fuhs. Mr. Hottenstein noted that the bond is currently \$20 million under where it was expected to be.

There was discussion regarding the capital reserve and the sewer enterprise fund. Mr. Hottenstein will update the Committee at the next meeting.

V. Updates

PennVest Funding Application

Mr. Jones has met with the project manager's financial consultant. A meeting with PennVest will be scheduled shortly to begin the process. Mr. Spencer suggested that Senator O'Pake and Representative Caltagirone be involved in this meeting.

Mr. Sterner questioned if any federal money was available. Mr. Jones noted that the project manager is exploring this possibility.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if the State's ballot question would affect the project. Mr. Jones indicated that the State is considering awarding money based on Districts. He noted that Reading was being considered for the South Central District.

Bernharts Park & Dam

Mr. Jones reported that there is nothing new to report. He noted the age of the valves to lower the water level. Ms. Kelleher indicated that there is no forward movement with the lead clean-up efforts.

Mr. Jones reported that he is seeking permission from Muhlenberg Township to use the parking lot for the City's leaf collection depository. Mr. Fuhs suggested that Phil Coles from Georgio Mushroom be contacted in regards to purchasing the composted leaves.

Storm Water Utility Fee

Mr. Jones reported that the RFP's are currently being reviewed. The contract award will be brought forward shortly.

Consent Decree (Project Manager Report provided)

Ms. Hoag reviewed the report submitted by the project manager.

Mr. Waltman questioned the transition. Mr. Binder noted that the transition has been smooth. He also noted that the financial aspects of the project are beginning to be addressed. Ms. Hoag noted that she is glad to have them on board.

Mr. Fuhs questioned the software options. Ms. Hoag noted that the options are being researched to determine which program to utilize to track and monitor the project.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested that the project management team continue to attend Council meetings as necessary.

Mr. Sterner questioned if outlying municipalities who use Reading's WWTP are being kept updated. Mr. Binder noted that they are updated and will be involved in the project.

The Public Works Committee meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Kelleher, City Clerk